

National Republican

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FRIDAY MORNING — MARCH 11, 1863

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W. J. MORTON, Editor, and Proprietor.

HENRY CLAY'S RECEIPTIONS.

We are authorized to announce that the Tuesday afternoon receptions of Mr. Grant will be discontinued until further notice.

HENRY CLAY'S RECEIPTIONS.

Mrs. Grant's receptions will be held Friday evening, March 18th, from 9 to 11 o'clock.

Mrs. Grant's receptions will be held every Wednesday of the month, between the hours of 4 and 5 p.m.

CONCERNING A RECALLAWAG.

The樵夫 holding up his hands and praying to Heaven that he was not as other men had an apt illustration in the political history of this undiscerning John Dewees. It is a pleasant sight to see a scolded and commercial morality of even a scolded Congress exposed thus mercilessly to public view. It was not, however, until Mr. Davis had all done some consolation for the disgrace of his expulsion, in the fact that Whittemore considers it a very trifling affair, one which his constituents will regard with pride rather than shame. Dewees was neither a man of genius nor a scholar, but as an average type of his class, he was bold and ambitious in the highest degree while his confidence in his own virtues no bounds. On the other hand, his confidence in the virtue and moral honesty of those who stood in his way was very small. To be short, he was a man in the virtue of his honest, which if cleverly used, would gain him any official position, no matter how high.

Now, if any of our readers are anxious to see how magnificently Dewees could "assume a virtue and have it not," we beg them to return with us to the *Congressional Globe*, of February 6, 1863. The appropriations for the army being under discussion, Mr. Dewees made a speech, in which he denounced the officers of the quartermaster and commissary general's departments in this city as a set of the most corrupt men on earth. Here is an extract of the remarkable speech:

Mr. Dewees, "I see we are called upon to appropriate \$300,000 for the quartermaster's department. This money goes into the hand of various officers to be used for a great variety of purposes. I know of the condition of affairs in the western Territories. I know nothing of swindles carried on by army officers, and to whom our attention has been called, to say as much as any other man can say. But I can bring the matter down to my own town, and show a state of things causing there no one better in character, though perhaps less in degree. In my town wood is brought in at a price of \$100 per cord, and is begged to take it at three dollars a cord. Yet in the very same place the officers of the Government pay five dollars a cord for the wood that is purchased for the use of the Quartermaster's department. The articles it is the same thing. Any man in my town can go to market and buy beef for his own use at ten cents a pound. Yet Government officers there contract for beef for the Government and pay twenty-eight cents a pound, and the same practices are carried on there in regard to other articles. It was only a week ago yesterday that I had put my hand in my pocket and said \$500 for a defective suit of clothes, and I was engaged in some fraudulent transaction. The commissary general showed conclusively that vouchers for those very articles had already been paid, and this defaulter quaternary had forged other vouchers and put them in.

Gentlemen here cry out for retribution, and tell us that the expenditures of the Government must be lessened. Let us begin by cutting down the appropriations in this bill. If the bill is passed, it is carried through with all the vices of fraud and peculation gather, all I can say is, from my slight experience as an army officer, that the quartermaster and commissary departments, and the with them the commissary and quartermaster, are not worth one cent of this \$300,000 will ever reach those entitled to it. An Indian agent cannot cheat and swindle without connivance on the part of some one else, generally of military officers. I am sorry to say, for myself, that it is necessary for a military officer to be present when any money is paid out to the Indians. In my town is one brigadier general, a acting major general, a colonel, a captain, a company commander, a surgeon, and sundry other officers, drawing on an average \$175 per month each, and all the troops they have to command are four little skeleton companies stationed in the same place, where there is no money and spending is in great many of them in the rum shop.

These officers need no defence from us.

But to those who know their high character, and how faithfully they have discharged their duties while protecting the Government against the swarm of thieves always besetting them with fraudulent claims, it will seem very strange that a member of Congress should rise in his seat and make such scandalous charges. A little explanation will expose the motive, and also show that Mr. Dewees in making these charges was true to his own character.

During the war Mr. Dewees was an officer in the regular service, and after its close succeeded in securing a captain's commission in the High Army, and was assigned to duty in North Carolina, where he began to dab extensively in politics, even while wearing the shoulder straps. In short, he soon discovered what a very easy matter it would be to get into Congress. A little tact and a good deal of brass would do the thing exactly. And then it would be such a pleasant thing for him to hear his voice in the Capital of the nation. If he could only convince the innocent colored men what a sincere friend of his he was, how long and how extensively he had admired him, and how, if elected, he would surely be his Moses. It is only getting him out of the big swamp, but placing him on the highest pedestal of social equality. Dewees secured the prize by using the means we have described, and in due time threw aside the shoulder straps, and assumed the more lucrative and honorable character of a Congressman. But unfortunately for him he ran up a score of \$400 with the commissary of his military post, which debt remains unpaid to this day, notwithstanding payment has been repeatedly pressed by the commissary department, and the delinquent informed that such debts were regarded as sacred by the officers of the regular army, who considered their honor involved in them and never permitted them to remain unpaid.

There was, however, another little matter which showed Mr. Dewees in his true character. No sooner had he got into Congress, than his love for hurling a penny began to develop itself, having purchased a claim for fresh beef, amounting to \$2,300 or thereabouts, against the Commissary Department of one of his constituents for about one half its face. This was prosecuted at the department in this city for pay, only to be informed that it was bogus. The man who sold the claim to Dewees had indeed furnished the beef, but he had long since received pay for it, the department holding the vouchers, properly received. Still Dewees pressed payment, supposing that the Government could better afford to pay the claim again than he could suffer the loss. When informed that such sentiments came with very bad grace from a member of Congress, he left, threatening to have such a satisfaction as his position would give him the opportunity of taking. Such is the man who set himself up as a saint and used his position in Congress to defend the cause of the poor, and who, when he saw that they had performed their duty honestly and fearlessly, Dewees is a fair example of his class. Is it any wonder, then, that a brave and patriotic people are so angry against the policy of those such men on the part of the military to misrepresent and disgrace them, while it deems this a virtue in their own affairs?

NAVAL HANX.

With the return of General Stevens from New Hampshire, the House Committee on Naval Affairs will resume consideration of the question of naval rank, and we sincerely hope they will push it to a conclusion. In former advocacy of the right and just claims of the wise, we publish the following letter written by a senior officer on the United States navy, and invite, for a careful personal. It was written on February 10, and its publication has been delayed in consequence of a pressure upon our columns, but the question is to be now again taken up in committee we make room for it to-day.

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whole question of staff rank, that rank and command are inseparable and independent, that the former involves and confers the latter, that command necessarily follows the order of rank, and that a law may be made higher than a staff officer might, in practice, interfere with the control of the property commanding his officer, from the fact that every of the former's superiority or higher rank. Had such been the case, General Sherman, like all the other members of the staff, would have been a chief to high rank, certainly to no rank that could touch on high command. Nor, according to General Sherman, does the high actual staff rank in the army interfere with the command of the line officers who may be of equal rank. As far as I am concerned, the article of war, which he states, "clearly establishes who is to command," his remarks.

"Therefore, (and it frequently happens), when a general issues an order, he commands the whole, although there may be under him surgeons, paymasters, quartermasters, etc., with commissions of rank or grade, who are not his subordinates. So long as a line officer is present for duty he is the commanding officer, and the Government holds him personally responsible for whatever duty or enterprise the subordinate may be engaged in."

"The next question is, whether the highest authority, that is, the highest rank, is given to the highest authority, that is, the highest staff officer of the army, but that they do not know with certainty that it might not possibly work badly in the army. The unknown is the staff against the line, the knowledge is the line against the staff. We have, therefore, to wait to see what the result will be." "Well, I am afraid, General," added the speaker, "that you will determine against that which you know, because there may be something which is known not; but we can say by analogy, that it would be admitted among sensible beings. If the conviction of what we know cannot be opposed, but by referring to something that we know not, we have all the reason to believe that the result will be as expected. Gen. Brockridge was a fighting rebel, but never a burglar nor an assassin, as cowardly villains are who, being skinned while he was fighting, now seek to prove their devotion to the rebel cause by midnight raids in overwhelming force on the cabins of defenseless negroes. His desecrations will do more to shame and disperse these base hounds than a brigade of braves could accomplish."

Gen. Brockridge, in a legal argument at Lexington, denounced the Ku Klux bandit as idiots or villains, and offered his services to arrest and bring them to justice. This was no more than might have been expected. Gen. Brockridge was a fighting rebel, but never a burglar nor an assassin, as cowardly villains are who, being skinned while he was fighting, now seek to prove their devotion to the rebel cause by midnight raids in overwhelming force on the cabins of defenseless negroes. His desecrations will do more to shame and disperse these base hounds than a brigade of braves could accomplish.

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